

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 remain pending in this application, with claim 1 being amended.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,007,359 (Kosmala) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,139,360 (Hayashi); claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kosmala, Hayashi and U.S. Patent No. 4,736,275 (Kendall); and claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Kosmala, Hayashi and U.S. Patent No. 4,572,604 (Ammon). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner states that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill to provide a cable assembly with cable connectors located on either ends of the cable assembly for Kosmala's cable assembly in view of the teachings of Hayashi. The above feature would allow Kosmala's cable assembly to be connectable to multiple circuit boards simultaneously. Final Office Action, page 2. Applicants' respectfully disagree.

Three criteria must be met to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP 2143. There must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge available to one of skill in the art, to combine the references. *Id.* There must be a reasonable expectation of success. *Id.* And, lastly, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *Id.* "The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure." MPEP 2143 (*citing In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991)).

The Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for at least the following reasons: (1) the references of Kosmala and Hayashi do not suggest the combination or motivate one skilled in the art to combine them; (2) Kosmala and Hayashi combined do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of independent claim 1; (3) Kosmala and Hayashi combined do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of dependent claims 2-12.

Applicants' submit that the Examiner has combined Kosmala and Hayashi based on the Applicants' application disclosure. The Examiner's primary reference is Kosmala.

The Examiner admits that Kosmala does not teach "a cable assembly with cable connectors located on either sides of the cable assembly" in the Final Office Action dated July 26, 2005. The Examiner then states that Hayashi teaches this feature. Applicants assert that nothing in Kosmala suggests that "a cable assembly with cable connectors located on either sides of the cable assembly" is even needed. There is no need for this feature in Kosmala.

Further, any motivation to combine the references fails for at least the following reasons. The combination of Kosmala with Hayashi does not work since there is no need or motivation provided by Kosmala cable assembly to be connectable to multiple circuit boards simultaneously. Rather this motivation is from Applicants disclosure. Thus, modifying Kosmala to include the cable assembly of Schmidt does not result in Applicants' claim.

For the reasons stated above, Applicants strongly assert that there is no motivation to modify Kosmala with the teachings of Hayashi. Therefore, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Thus, claims 1-12 are patentable over the cited combination of references.

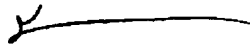
In summary, for the reasons noted above, Claims 1-12 are distinguished over the cited art and are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. Favorable action is respectfully solicited. Allowance of the Claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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